



News From

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MONROE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

For Immediate Release

Monday, October 28, 2002

COUNTY RECEIVES ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AWARD

Monroe County Executive Jack Doyle today proudly announced that the Monroe County Stormwater Coalition received the Empire State Award of Excellence for the Advancement of Stormwater. The Lt. Governor and the NYSDEC Commissioner presented the award last week at the Department of State sponsored Quality Communities Conference in Albany.

“The Monroe County Stormwater Coalition ensures our municipalities work collectively to comply with the regulations and protect water quality,” said Doyle. “This award recognizes the hard work put forth by the Coalition. Stormwater pollution is a significant concern and the costs saved and the benefits realized by the Coalition are greater than if each municipality worked individually.”

The Empire State Award of Excellence for the Advancement of Stormwater recognizes the exemplary designs and programs that reduce or eliminate stormwater runoff or mitigate flooding. The Monroe County Stormwater Coalition was established in 2000 and is comprised of Monroe County, the city, and the 29 towns and villages within the County. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) is also a very active participant in the Coalition.

As a Coalition, members review minimum stormwater control measures, identify relevant existing municipal activities, and brainstorm ideas on how members can work together in their compliance activities.

Since its inception, the Coalition has successfully outlined the gaps between existing programs and the requirements of the Phase II Stormwater regulations. In 2001, it established task groups to develop recommendations on what key actions should be taken in order to comply with the regulations, and in the spring of 2002 the Coalition devised a schedule of activities that need to be completed before the regulations go into effect in March 2003.

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The Coalition has also provided direction to the Monroe County Health Department's Pollution Prevention Task Group in developing training materials for use by municipalities in their efforts to comply with the "Pollution Prevention at Municipal Facilities" requirement of the regulations. In addition, the Coalition received \$36,000 in funding from the Great Lakes Commission to develop a roadway stormwater management training program. The program will be used by municipalities throughout New York in their efforts to comply with the pollution prevention requirements.

Monroe County is among three municipalities in the state to receive this year's Empire State Award of Excellence for the Advancement of Stormwater. The Town of Cortlandville and Town of South Hampton also received the award.

Projects were judged on the following criteria:

- The ability of the project to improve water quality or control flooding
- Use of innovative approaches that maximize water quality benefits and minimize costs.
- The methodology, design and time schedule.
- The ability of the project to serve as a model for similar efforts.
- The commitment of the individual, organization, or agency to water quality improvement.

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